

REPORT

OF

NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 11th February 1893.

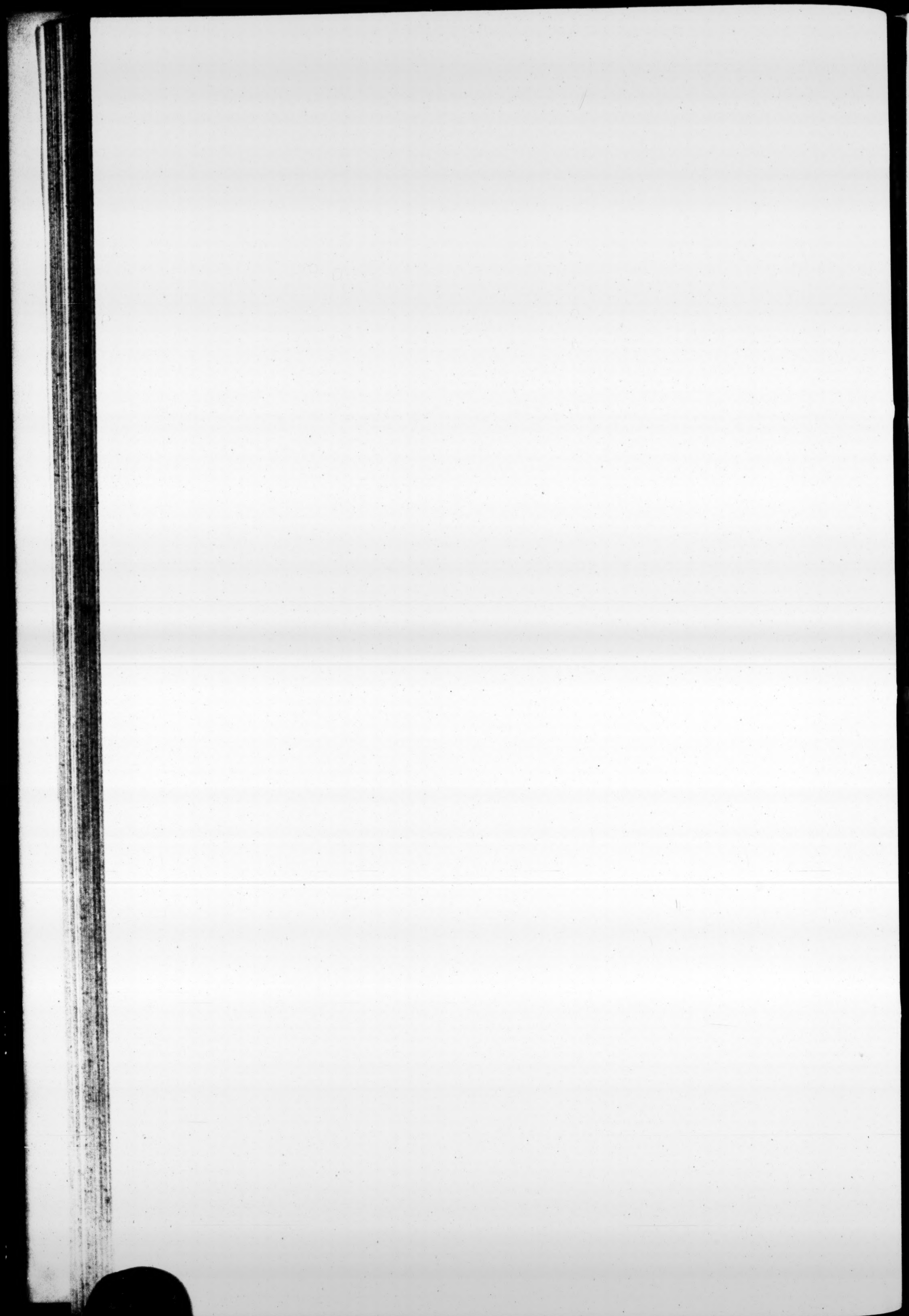
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LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
BENGALI.				
Fortnightly.				
1	"Ahmadî" ...	Tangail, Mymensingh	600	1st February 1893.
2	"Bankura Darpan" ...	Bankura	....
3	"Grāmvasî" ...	Ramkristopur, Howrah	1,000	
4	"Kaliyuga" ...	Calcutta	....
5	"Kasipur Nivâsi" ...	Kasipur, Barisâl	280	
6	"Navamihir" ...	Ghatail, Mymensingh	500	27th January 1893. 13th ditto.
7	"Sadar-o-Mufassal" ...	Tahirpur, Rajshahi	....
8	"Ulubaria Darpan" ...	Ulubaria	700	
Tri-monthly.				
9	"Hitakari" ...	Tangail Mymensingh	800	
Weekly.				
10	"Bangavâsi" ...	Calcutta	20,000	4th February 1893.
11	"Banganivâsi" ...	Ditto	8,000	3rd ditto.
12	"Burdwân Sanjivani" ...	Burdwan	335	
13	"Châruvârtâ" ...	Sherpur, Mymensingh	400	
14	"Dacca Prakâsh" ...	Dacca	2,200	5th ditto.
15	"Education Gazette" ...	Hooghly	825	3rd ditto.
16	"Hindu Ranjikâ" ...	Boalia, Rajshahi	212	
17	"Hitavâdî" ...	Calcutta	....	2nd ditto.
18	"Murshidâbâd Pratinidhi" ...	Berhampore	....
19	"Navayuga" ...	Calcutta	500	
20	"Prakriti" ...	Ditto	....
21	"Pratikâr" ...	Berhampore	609	3rd ditto.
22	"Prithivi" ...	Calcutta	....
23	"Rangpur Dikprakâsh" ...	Kakinia, Rangpur	....
24	"Sahachar" ...	Calcutta	800-1,000	1st ditto.
25	"Sahayogi" ...	Barisâl	342	
26	"Sakti" ...	Dacca	....
27	"Samâj-o-Sâhitya" ...	Garibpore, Nadia	1,000	5th ditto.
28	"Samaya" ...	Calcutta	3,000	
29	"Sanjivani" ...	Ditto	4,000	4th ditto.
30	"Sansodhini" ...	Chittagong	....
31	"Sâraswat Patra" ...	Dacca	300	4th ditto.
32	"Som Prakâsh" ...	Calcutta	600	
33	"Srimanta Sadagar" ...	Ditto	....
34	"Sudhâkar" ...	Ditto	3,100	3rd ditto.
35	"Sulabh Samâchar" ...	Ditto	....
Daily.				
36	"Banga Vidyâ Prakâshikâ" ...	Calcutta	500	6th ditto.
37	"Bengal Exchange Gazette" ...	Ditto	....	1st to 3rd and 6th, 7th and 9th Feb- ruary 1893.
38	"Dainik-o-Samâchâr Chandrikâ" ...	Ditto	1,000	5th to 9th February 1893.
39	"Samvâd Prabhâkar" ...	Ditto	1,500	3rd, 4th and 6th to 9th February 1893.
40	"Samvâd Purnachandrodaya" ...	Ditto	300	Ditto ditto ditto.
41	"Sulabh Dainik" ...	Ditto	....	2nd to 4th and 6th to 9th ditto.
ENGLISH AND BENGALI.				
Weekly.				
42	"Dacca Gazette" ...	Dacca	....	5th February 1893.
HINDI.				
Monthly.				
43	"Darjeeling Mission ke Mâsik Samâchâr Patrika." ...	Darjeeling	50	
44	"Kshatriya Patrikâ" ...	Patna	250	
Weekly.				
45	"Aryâvarta" ...	Dinapore	750	4th and 25th January 1893.
46	"Bihar Bandhu" ...	Bankipore	500	
47	"Bhârat Mitra" ...	Calcutta	1,200	12th and 26th January and 2nd Feb- ruary 1893.
48	"Champaran Chandrika" ...	Bettiah	350	
49	"Desî Vyâpâri" ...	Calcutta	....
50	"Hindî Bangavâsi" ...	Ditto	....
51	"Sâr Sudhânidhi" ...	Ditto	500	30th January and 6th February 1893.
52	"Uchit Baktâ" ...	Ditto	4,500	

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
URDU.				
Weekly.				
53	" Akhbar-i-Al Punch "	Bankipore ... ..	.....	30th January 1893.
54	" Anis "	Patna ... ..	.....
55	" Calcutta Punch "	Calcutta ... ..	.....	2nd February 1893.
56	" Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide "	Ditto	340	
57	" General and Gauhariasfi "	Ditto ... ..	.....
58	" Mehre Monawar "	Muzaffarpur ... ..	.....
59	" Raisul-Akhbari-Murshidabad "	Murhidabad	150	
60	" Setare Hind "	Arrah ... ..	.....
61	" Shokh "	Monghyr ... ..	.....
URIYA.				
Monthly.				
62	" Asha "	Cuttack	165	
63	" Echo "	Ditto ... ..	.....
64	" Pradip "	Ditto ... ..	.....
65	" Samyabadi "	Ditto ... ..	.....
66	" Taraka and Subhavartá "	Ditto ... ..	.....
67	" Utkalprabhá "	Baripada ... ..	.....
Weekly.				
68	" Dipaka "	Cuttack ... ..	.....
69	" Samvad Váhika "	Balasore	200	
70	" Uriya and Navasamvád "	Ditto	420	
71	" Utkal Dípiká "	Cuttack	420	
PAPERS PUBLISHED IN ASSAM.				
BENGALI.				
Fortnightly.				
72	" Paridarshak "	Sylhet	480	1st ditto.
73	" Silchar "	Silchar	500	
Weekly.				
74	" Srihatta Mihir "	Sylhet	332	



I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

The *Hindi Bangavási*, of the 6th February, says that the Amir is offended with the British Government for two reasons: first, because it proposes to send the conqueror of Cabul as ambassador: and, secondly, because the treatment he has been lately receiving at the hands of that Government is not good. In dealing with the Amir the British Government ought to remember that he is an independent ruler, and not a feudatory chief like the Holkar or Scindhia. Indeed, the Amir's feelings have been so far alienated that he is now more a friend of Russia than of England, though he owes to England his very crown and a good many other benefits. The Government should, however, lose no time in bringing about the old friendship with the ruler of Cabul.

HINDI BANGAVASI,
Feb. 6th, 1893.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

2. The *Bankura Darpan*, of the 1st February, says that the ghatwals of Bankura have not shown themselves quite trustworthy protectors of the peace. In almost all cases of high way robbery suspicion falls upon the local ghatwals. Within a short time ghatwals have been punished in two or three cases, and ghatwals are even now found to be implicated in thefts and dacoities. The police officers in collusion with the ghatwals try to screen the real offenders. The other day a case of this kind came on for hearing before Babu Nanda Lal Bagchi, Deputy Magistrate of Bankura. In order to protect a ghatwal the Chhatna police sent up some innocent men for trial on a charge of having wrongfully confined a man. The Deputy Magistrate declared the case a got up one. The writer will here express no opinion about the complaint made to the effect that the ghatwal in question, with several other men, had gone out at night to steal paddy, and that the man who was alleged to have been wrongfully confined was apprehended in the act. When the trial of this case is over the Magistrate should enquire into the conduct of the Chhatna police.

BANKURA DARPAN,
Feb. 1st, 1893.

3. The *Hitavadi*, of the 2nd February, is glad that, in response to the appeal for help made by the inhabitants of Naihati in the 24-Parganas, Government has sent a body of Sikh soldiers to that place to put down the daring thefts and dacoities that are now being committed there. There will probably be some check upon these crimes so long as the Sikh soldiers remain at the place, but their stay there will be of short duration.

HITAVADI,
Feb. 2nd, 1892.

4. Referring to the case in which a charge of theft was brought against one Syama Charan Chakravarti, a mukhtar of Mymensingh, by a washerman, and which was dismissed by Babu Purna Chandra Nag, Deputy Magistrate, the *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 7th February, says that it has received very serious complaints against the Mymensingh police in connection with this case. Even if all that is said against the police be not true, it must be admitted that the police was guilty of indiscretion in sending up the case without proper enquiry, especially when the charge was one brought by a low class man against a respectable mukhtar.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Feb. 7th, 1893.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

5. The *Bharat Mitra*, of the 12th January, presses upon the Government the necessity of reforming the administration of justice, for the country will otherwise be soon ruined by the expenses of litigation.

BHARAT MITRA,
Jan. 12th, 1893.

6. The *Sahachar*, of the 1st February, is surprised to see Government interfering with the judicial independence of the law courts in so peaceful a country as India, and among so law-abiding a people as the Indians. In fighting for the judicial independence of the High Court, Sir Comer Petheram is doing great good to the country, and the public should support him. The

SAHACHAR,
Feb. 1st, 1893.

jury question is now receiving the attention of the British public, and this is therefore fit time for having the entire judicial system of this country reviewed by that public.

BANGANIVASI,
Feb. 3rd, 1893.

7. The *Banganivási*, of the 3rd February, says that, according to a correspondent of the *Amrita Bazar Patriká*, one Jagannath Kurma, a cooly in the Bihunar tea garden in Sibsagar, Assam, was convicted by the Deputy Commissioner of Sibsagar of the offence of bringing a false charge of assault against the Manager of the garden, and sentenced to one month's rigorous imprisonment. The man complained to the Deputy Commissioner that he had been severely whipped by the Manager, and even submitted a certificate from the medical officer in charge of the civil station to the effect that the wounds on his body were caused by whipping. The papers of the case not being before the writer, he is unable to say on what grounds the Deputy Commissioner came to the conclusion that the case was a got up one. But he would certainly like to know why the Deputy Commissioner disbelieved the certificate given by the medical officer, and how he accounted for the wounds on the man's body. Is it possible that a man of Jagannath's position inflicted wounds on his body by his own hand, in order to be able to bring a false charge against his master? It is hoped that Government will enquire into the case.

SANJIVANI,
Feb. 4th, 1893.

8. The *Sanjivani*, of the 4th February, says that a Muhammadan Honorary Magistrate having been lately appointed to the Santipur Bench in the Nadia district, the people of Nadia and Santipur, places still famous as centres of Brahmanism and Vaishnavism, submitted a petition to Government for his removal. The authorities have, however, rightly refused to listen to their representation, for it would have ill behoved them to encourage race feeling among Hindus and Mussalmans by listening to such unreasonable objections.

SANJIVANI.

Another act of oppression by Mr. Phillips.

9. The same paper has the following :—
It will be a crime to say that the Mymensingh district lies within the Indian *Raj* of her Imperial Majesty, for, were it so, such *zulm* as is being perpetrated there would be impossible. It is Mr. Phillips who seems to be the sovereign of the Mymensingh district. Though oppression is rampant in the district, nobody seems to take notice of it. It behoves Mr. Luttmann-Johnson, Commissioner of the Dacca Division, who is known to be a very upright man, to take notice of Mr. Phillips' conduct without further delay. Mr. Phillips and his favourite Deputy, the Nag Babu, have recently taken to persecuting Srimati Rahatunnesa, the female zamindar of Deldwar. This lady has been appointed administratrix of the estate of her minor son by an order of the District Court. Her son, however, is anxious to take the management of his estate into his own hands, and he has found a supporter in Mr. Phillips. Mr. Phillips is accordingly doing all he can to persecute the mother. A police force was sent the other day to arrest the lady; the lady was arrested, but was released on furnishing heavy securities. The perpetration of such *zulm* upon a respectable zamindar—and a lady—was never heard of before. Mir Musarraff Hosain, adviser of Rahatunnesa, was sentenced by the Deputy Magistrate, the Nag Babu, to one year's imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 1,000, and was required to give security for good conduct for six months. And it was owing to the just trial made of his appeal by Mr. Harding, District Judge of Mymensingh, that the Mir Saheb escaped the unjust sentence passed upon him by the Deputy Magistrate. A case against one Dugu Miya, an officer of Rahatunnesa, was pending before the selfsame Deputy Magistrate, but the High Court, in view of the Deputy Magistrate's conduct towards Rahatunnesa herself, transferred it to the file of the Deputy Magistrate of Sirajganj. In his judgment in Mir Musarraff Hosain's appeal, the Judge did not hesitate to reprove both Mr. Phillips and his Deputy for their unjustifiable conduct towards Rahatunnesa.

Now, may it be asked, how long Mr. Phillips will be allowed to have his own way in Mymensingh? The Lieutenant-Governor is fond of *zubberdust Hakims*, but is there no other representative of Her Majesty in India who can check such high-handed conduct within her dominions?

10. The *Dacca Gazette*, of the 6th February, says that only a few years ago the criminal judicial work of the Munshiganj subdivision of the Dacca district was performed by a single officer, namely, the Subdivisional Magistrate, but it now fully occupies some seven or eight courts. There is no questioning that criminal litigation has vastly increased in this subdivision. But is increase in the number of criminal courts due to increase of litigation, or is increase of litigation owing to increase in the number of courts? No one, it is true, is displeased at the action of Government in honouring respectable people by making them Honorary Magistrates, but the harm done by increasing the number of Magistrates in the country has become manifest in Munshiganj, and is to be deprecated. In fact, the increase of criminal litigation in Munshiganj is due, first, to the increase in the number of criminal courts; secondly, to the despatch with which cases are decided in consequence of the increase of the number of courts; and thirdly and principally, to the conviction of accused persons even on false charges. This last cause induces people to seek gratification of private malice by instituting false cases. Indeed, the courts of Munshiganj have become notorious for severity in this respect. Whoever comes to Munshiganj as an accused person is almost sure to be punished. In corroboration of this statement the writer will refer to the record of appeal cases from Munshiganj. It will be found that, in a very large percentage of these appeal cases, convictions are set aside. In this connection the writer cannot help making special reference to the work of some Magistrates. Babu Swarna Kamal Chakravarti, an Honorary Magistrate, had quite a notoriety as a convicting Magistrate, but of late he has much improved. But though he has improved, the Sub-Deputy, Babu Tarak Chandra Ganguli, has taken up his rôle. The public are satisfied with the Honorary Bench.

DACCA GAZETTE,
Feb. 6th, 1893.

(d)—Education.

11. The *Sulabh Dainik*, of the 2nd February, is glad to see that the authorities have at last recognized the importance of agricultural science as a subject of study in the lower schools. In the list of text-books for the Upper Primary examination in 1893-94 and 1894-95 the Inspector of Schools, Presidency Circle, has included agricultural science as an alternative subject with general science. This is very good; but the writer would have preferred to see agricultural science made compulsory, considering its importance to the boys of an agricultural country like Bengal. Indeed, agricultural science may well be substituted for general science not only in the Upper Primary schools, but in the Middle Schools also, and the more so as there are not the same facilities in the lower schools for teaching general science as for teaching agricultural science.

SULABH DAINIK,
Feb. 2nd, 1893.

In Hygiene it has been a mistake to make the study of two text-books compulsory. One text-book would have been enough for boys of the tender age for whom the course is intended.

12. The *Hitavadi*, of the 2nd February, says that the Viceroy's announcement at the last Convocation of the Calcutta University that power will be given next year to elect a graduate of the Engineering College as a Fellow is gratifying. The writer also thinks that as candidates for Fellowships have now to go about searching for the M.A.'s all over the country, it has become necessary to prepare a register of the names and addresses of the graduates who possess the voting right.

HITAVADI,
Feb. 2nd, 1893.

13. The same paper has the following about Mr. Tawney :—

One cannot help admiring Mr. Tawney's profound learning and stern sense of duty. He was eminently fit for professorial work; but it is a matter of regret that he never tried to become a fit teacher. He had nothing of that affection, love, and sympathy which endear a teacher to his pupils and enshrine him in their hearts. Besides teaching them, as routine required him to do, he is reported to have done nothing else for his pupils. And Mr. Tawney's chief fault was his hatred of the natives of the country. Holding Lord Macaulay's opinion of the Bengali

HITAVADI.

character, he one day called Bengalis 'monumental liars' in the presence of a foolish Christian missionary. The people of this country will never forget that.

Several friends and pupils of Mr. Tawney met together the other day, to make arrangements for a fitting memorial of him in the country with whose money he has maintained himself for so many years. Most of the students of the Presidency College, however, kept away from the meeting, and a certain European Professor, too, fully sympathised with those that kept away, and declined to subscribe to the memorial fund. But the Bengali, though he may have no other virtues, knows how to be grateful and how to forgive wrongs. And the writer will, therefore, heartily pray to God that Mr. Tawney may yet live many long years, engaged in literary pursuits. The "monumental liars" of Bengal will always wish him well. But as regards a memorial, his libel against the Bengalis will keep his memory fresher in their hearts than any number of portraits or statues.

BANGANIVASI,
Feb. 3rd, 1893.

14. Referring to Sir Charles Elliott's Resolution on the Madrassa Debating Club affair, the *Banganivasi*, of the 3rd February, says that it is quite inexplicable why His Honour was so much offended with the club, seeing that at the meeting in question nothing was said against the Muhammadan religion which could inflame the Muhammadan community and thus lead to a breach of the public peace, and that nothing was said against the Government too. And it may be asked, whether supposing the discussion which took place at the meeting contained objectionable matter for Government, Government had any right to interfere, the club not having been established by Government, nor depending upon it for support. And, supposing the discussion of a religious subject was against any of the rules of the club, it was no business of the Government to interfere. Indeed, the action of Government in this matter, whatever the point of view from which it is considered, has been absolutely indefensible. What will prevent the authorities, after this, from meddling in the affairs of the clubs attached to the other colleges, public and private? It is rumoured that the Government of India has been petitioned against the decision of the Bengal Government. If so, there is every hope that Lord Lansdowne will do full justice in the matter.

It is clear that the choice of his subject by Mr. Webb has been the cause of the whole mischief. If Mr. Webb's theme had been Christianity, not Muhammadanism, poor Kabiruddin would not now have been in his present scrape, nor would the club have been held guilty of a breach of its rules by allowing the discussion of a religious subject, and Government itself would have been highly pleased with Mr. Webb for making wider, for the people of India, the road to true evangelization. But no, Mr. Webb, a convert from Christianity to Muhammadanism, praised Islam, and that in the heart of a country governed by Christian rulers—and it is no wonder that the rulers have been offended.

SANJIVANI,
Feb. 4th, 1892.

15. The *Sanjivani*, of the 4th February, has the following:—

Mr. Billing, Principal of the
Krishnagar College.

The test examination of the Entrance class of the Krishnagar Collegiate School having been conducted by the Professors of the college, the marks were, in the usual course, sent in to the Principal, Mr. Billing. Mr. Billing was, however, dissatisfied with the marks given in English, and examined the answers in that subject himself, and cut down the marks given to some of the boys. But, before doing this, he should have remembered that the examiner in English was a gentleman who had passed the M. A. examination of the Calcutta University with credit, while he himself had a most ignominious failure at that examination. One year, on hearing that Mr. Deighton had been appointed examiner in the B. A. examination, he told the fourth year students that they could not prepare themselves too well, for Mr. Deighton was a most fastidious examiner. And he admitted to his students that he himself, though an Englishman, got from Mr. Deighton only 35 per cent. of the full marks in English in the B. A. examination.

Then, as for Mr. Billing's ability as a Principal, it seems a matter of surprise how the educational authorities could give such a responsible post to a man who cannot interpret the University rules correctly. This year he refused to send up a boy to the F. A. examination, on the ground that having

been plucked at a previous examination, he had not secured the requisite percentage of attendance marks for the whole session, though under the rules of the University such candidates are permitted to appear if they only secure the percentage for six months of the session. The student had to take the Registrar's written permission before he was allowed by Mr. Billing to deposit his fee.

As Principal, Mr. Billing also conducts himself in a most high-handed manner. He has ordered the gates of the college to be kept closed from five minutes after 10-30 A.M. to five minutes before 3-30 P.M., that is, during the whole time the college sits. But this is exceedingly inconvenient to the students who may have occasion to go home during college hours. He has also ruled that none but gentlemen should be allowed to come upon the college playground, and has ordered the gymnastic master to keep watch there from 2 to 6 or 7 P.M. Lately the Secretary of the Cricket Club and a student of the college brought with them one day to the grounds a certain native gentleman, a student in the M. A. class of St. Xavier's College, who is the son-in-law of a Deputy Magistrate. The gymnastic master objected to this, but his objection not having been heeded, he reported the matter to the Principal, who came to the spot, and sat in judgment over the Secretary of the Club and the student who had brought the gentleman, and forbade them, by way of punishment, to come to the grounds for seven days. Does Mr. Billing mean by 'gentleman' only a European?

16. The *Bangavási*, of the 4th February, says that the Chancellor's statement at the last Convocation of the Calcutta University that the owners of students' lodging-houses should be compelled to take out special licenses has caused anxiety among the student community, because they fear that a compulsory system of licensing of their lodging-houses will tell upon their purse, by raising the cost of their living.

BANGAVASI,
Feb. 4th, 1893.

(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

17. The *Banganivási*, of the 3rd February, complains of the negligence of the Calcutta Municipality in checking the sale of adulterated milk in Calcutta, and says that a license tax on milk-sellers may be adopted as a partial remedy for the evil, as he public will be sure of getting pure milk at least from the licensed sellers. It is hoped that the Chairman and the Commissioners will not neglect the matter any longer.

BANGANIVASI,
Feb. 3rd, 1893.

18. The *Sanjivani*, of the 4th February, says that Government has refused to listen to the objection raised against the assessment of the temples at Benares to the municipal rates. It is true temples and churches always enjoy exemption from such taxes, but the assessment of the Benares temples is perhaps due to the consideration that as the city of Benares consists mostly of temples, there would be few buildings left in the city which the Benares Municipality could tax, if its temples were exempted from assessment.

SANJIVANI,
Feb. 4th, 1893.

19. The same paper draws the attention of the District Boards to the scarcity of water which is being already felt all over the province, and which is due to last year's deficient rainfall, and says that unless the Boards take prompt measures for the excavation of tanks, there is no knowing to what length the sufferings of men and beasts will go.

SANJIVANI

20. The *Dainik-o-Samáchar Chandriká*, of the 7th February, has the following:—

(1) No Assistant Surgeon or native doctor in the service of Government will be hereafter appointed Honorary Magistrate because in the capacity of Honorary Magistrates these officers have frequently to try cases with which they have had to deal in their medical capacity, and also because they have not the necessary time to spare from their official duties. The first is a good ground, but not the second. Why should not Assistant Surgeons find time for a public duty, when they have time for amusements and pleasure parties?

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Feb. 7th, 1893.

(2) No medical officer of Government will be allowed to become a member of a District Board, because, being generally confined to the headquarters of a district, such officers possess little knowledge of the interior of their districts. But the writer knows of many medical officers who have a very good knowledge of the mufassal, and who have to go out into the mufassal from time to time.

(3) No Assistant Surgeon or native doctor in the service of Government will be allowed to be appointed to the Chairmanship or Vice-Chairmanship of any municipality or Local Board. The Lieutenant-Governor's Secretary says that this prohibition is made entirely on administrative grounds. But the public would have been glad if Government had given some better-defined ground for the prohibition, for several Civil Surgeons have been known to fill the office of Municipal Chairman without any hitch. And why should not Assistant Surgeons and native doctors be allowed to do what Civil Surgeons are permitted to do?

(4) But both these classes of officers may be appointed Commissioners of a municipality and members of a Local Board, as their advice in sanitary matters will be of use to those bodies. But could they not give such advice if appointed Chairman or Vice-Chairman? The public should have been told for what administrative reasons Assistant Surgeons and native doctors have been excluded from the latter posts. And how is it that Government thinks that these officers will have time for Municipal Commissionerships and memberships of Boards but not for Honorary Magistrateships? The writer is not an advocate of Self-Government, and is not sorry that the medical officers of Government have been exempted from a public duty which has to be discharged gratis. But he must say that the grounds given by Government for excluding those officers from the local bodies are not quite satisfactory.

(f) — Questions affecting the land.

SUDHAKAR,
Feb. 3rd, 1892.

21. The *Sudhakar*, of the 3rd February, says that, though the zamindars of almost every district in Bengal oppress their raiyats, zamindari oppression has reached its climax in the Mymensingh district. It appears from the communications recently published in the *Indian Daily News* and the *Englishman* newspapers that the zamindars of that district always contrive to keep their raiyats deeply in arrear, though they may pay their rents regularly. The following particulars about raiyats' debts have been supplied by the *Sudhakar's* own correspondent:—

- (1) Baram Khan, annual rent Rs. 10-3, arrear Rs. 72-8-9.
- (2) Basrat Khan, annual rent annas 8-3, arrear Rs. 16-15-6.
- (3) Daulat Shekh, annual rent Rs. 2-1-6, paid in 1298 B.S. Rs. 16-4-9. arrear Rs. 35-3.
- (4) Samaj Bewah, annual rent Rs. 5-5-6, paid during the last eight years Rs. 27-8, arrear Rs. 139-3-3.
- (5) Kasul Shekh, annual rent Rs. 3-11, paid during the last eight year Rs. 19, arrear Rs. 187-15.
- (6) Manir Bhuinya, annual rent Rs. 9, arrear Rs. 2,468-11.
- (7) Karim Bepari, annual rent 13 annas, arrear Rs. 754.
- (8) Nilu Shekh, annual rent 13 annas, arrear Rs. 455-15.
- (9) Jarip Shekh, annual rent 9 annas, arrear Rs. 36-4-6.

The correspondent has supplied a very long list, the whole of which will be published if necessary. But the above instances are enough to excite pity for the raiyats in any feeling heart. It is the more strange that such oppression can go on under British rule; and it is hoped that Government will soon enquire into the matter, and relieve the sufferings of the poor raiyats.

(g) — Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.

SAHACHAR,
Feb. 1st, 1892.

22. The *Sahachar*, of the 1st February, says that a Commission should be appointed to enquire how far the indiscriminate cutting of forest trees has to do with the diminished rainfall in the country, and recommends that, having regard to the fact that the population of India, now that indigenous industries like weaving, &c., are extinct

in consequence of foreign competition, is mainly agricultural, Government should construct a large number of canals, which, like the Sone canals, will be equally suited to agricultural and commercial purposes. Such canals will be a great boon to the country.

23. The *Hitavadi*, of the 2nd February, says that, according to a correspondent of the *Statesman* newspaper, the death, under suspicious circumstances, of passengers in the third class compartments of the East Indian Railway line has been heard of, from time to time, during the last few months. But it is very curious that the police makes no enquiries into these deaths, but only removes the dead bodies from the compartments in which they are found. According to another correspondent, dead bodies of passengers are found also in intermediate class carriages. The Railway Company, which derives the principal part of its income from the traffic in passengers, more than 90 per cent. of whom are Indians, ought to attend to the matter. With the construction of railways a new class of thieves and dacoits have made their appearance in the country. These men, after committing theft and dacoity at a station, take train at some other station, and make their escape.

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Feb. 2nd, 1893.

24. A correspondent of the same paper complains of frequent delay in the arrival of trains on the southern section of the Eastern Bengal Railway line. This delay causes great inconvenience to passengers who have to attend office at Calcutta. The carriages on this line are also found to be dirty and in a state of disrepair. On the day following a holiday the accommodation in the trains becomes so insufficient, that many of them have to go away disappointed. The complaints of the passengers regarding these matters have hitherto received no attention from the authorities.

HITAVADI.

25. A correspondent of the *Sudhakar*, of the 3rd February, says that the *beels* which lie between Fulgaji and Kharchuni, on the two sides of the river Muhuri, in the Fenny subdivision of the Noakhali district, not being supplied with outlets, cause great inconvenience to cultivators in the rainy season, and do great injury to the health of the people who live near them. It is hoped that the subdivisional officer, Babu Nabin Chandra Sen, who is an energetic officer, will take steps to connect these *beels* with the river by means of some drainage channels, the excavation of which will not cost more than Rs. 60 or Rs. 70 each.

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(h)—General.

26. The *Hitavadi*, of the 2nd February, objects to the proposed abolition of the Barrackpore subdivision and its amalgamation with the Barasat subdivision. This will increase the oppression by the soldiers of the Barrackpore Cantonment which is already so great, and put the civil and criminal suitors of Barrackpore to great inconvenience, by compelling them to travel to Barasat, which is one hour and a half's railway journey from that place.

HITAVADI,
Feb. 2nd, 1892.

27. The *Bangavasi*, of the 4th February, says that the proposal for amalgamating the Barrackpore subdivision with the Barasat subdivision of the 24-Parganas district will surely be carried into effect, if the measure is deemed convenient for the purposes of the administration. But in abolishing the subdivisional head-quarters at Barrackpore, the authorities should take care that proper safeguards are provided against the committing of oppression by the soldiers of the cantonment upon the residents of the place, for everybody knows what liberties the cantonment soldiers take, and with what consequences to the people.

BANGAVASI,
Feb. 4th 1892.

28. The *Dainik-o-Samachar-Chandrika*, of the 5th February, says that the exchange difficulty is gradually increasing. But the remedy proposed, namely, stopping or diminishing the coinage of silver, will aggravate the evil. It is clear that, if the Government of India ceases to keep a silver currency, merchants will import less silver and there will be, therefore, a rise in the value of that metal. But this rise must be of short duration, for as more

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silver is being drawn from mines than gold, importation of silver cannot be stopped for good, even by the abolition of the silver currency. Silver still continues to be imported into those European countries in which the silver currency has been abolished. In Europe the rejection of the silver currency has led to the depreciation of silver, and in India the same cause will produce the same effect.

If the silver currency is abolished in India, Government must introduce a gold currency, and a gold currency will lead to a rise in the price of gold. It would be unwise to think that Mr. Mackay's scheme for keeping the value of the rupee at 12-annas in foreign dealings, and at 16-annas within India, will work in practice. In England the law lays down that no exchange rate should be charged in transactions below 40 shillings. But the shopkeepers, nevertheless, charge exchange rates even in transactions amounting to 1 shilling. And they are simply obliged to do so; for as they gather money shilling by shilling, they have to conduct transactions in shillings, and in every case the number of these shillings exceed 40 they have to pay exchange rates.

So it is clear that, if the rupee is worth 12-annas in foreign dealings, it will not be worth more within India. A large number of rupees will be spent in purchasing foreign articles, and the dealers in those articles will value the rupee at the exchange rate, and charge their prices accordingly. So the present evil will remain unchecked, and there will come the additional evil that the rupee will be valued at 12-annas, even in purely Indian transactions.

So Mr. Mackay's scheme will be a curse instead of a boon, so far as the country in general is concerned; and the only people who will benefit by it are the foreign merchants and the foreign officers.

It is certain that the exchange difficulty is a great hardship to Anglo-Indian officers, and that it is the duty of Government to keep those officers in humour. But it is, at the same time, equally certain that Government ought not to benefit a handful of men at the expense of the 280 millions of this country. To spend the money of these millions in making good the loss of a few Anglo-Indian officers will be nothing short of embezzlement of public money, and misuse of other people's money.

Those who receive the greatest consideration are naturally most importunate and unreasonable in their demands. And this accounts for the plain saying by certain Anglo-Indian editors that if the exchange difficulty is not removed, the entire body of Anglo-Indian officers—civil and military—will rebel. It is because Government always grants the unreasonable demands of the Anglo-Indians that the Anglo-Indian editors have grown so bold and haughty. There is nothing wrong in Anglo-Indian editors making a statement like that. But let a native editor only say that the 280 millions of Indians will be dissatisfied if Government spends Indian money to remove the exchange difficulty of the British officials, and he will be at once transported to the Andamans.

In solving this exchange difficulty the Government should have regard not to the interests of any particular class or community, but those of the entire country.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Feb. 5th 1893.

29. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 7th February, is glad that Sir Charles Elliott has in view of the prevailing high prices ordered an increase of Re. 1 in the salary of all public servants in Hooghly, Mymensingh, Rangpur, Darjeeling, and Calcutta who get only Rs. 5 a month, and says that as high prices have become chronic, His Honour should show a feeling heart by making the increase permanent.

Increase of the pay of some
menial servants of Government.

III.—LEGISLATIVE.

SAHACHAR,
Feb. 1st, 1893.

The Habitual Offenders Bill.

Offenders Bill:—

30. The *Sahachar*, of the 1st February, has the following about Sir Phillip Hutchins' Habitual

We are glad to see the Press protesting against Sir Philip Hutchins' Habitual Offenders Bill. The object of the Bill is to preserve peace in the country, but it is so framed, that it cannot fail to cause great hardship to the lower classes. It is only among the lower classes that habitual offenders are to be met with, and the number of such offenders in this country is very small.

Habitual offenders of this class are congregated in the towns. And those who are known in the villages as *budmashes* are, for the most part, poor men who commit crimes under the pressure of distress. Almost every one of these latter is a householder, and their ways and habits are eminently social, so that, as soon as their circumstances improve, they give up their evil courses. To take one example, one often finds a householder with children to support, but without land or occupation of any kind, taking to theft in a time of severe distress. Now as soon as this man's children grow up and are able to earn, he is found to give up his evil ways. Habitual offenders like the Thugs no longer exist in the country. The *Vedias* and some other wild tribes were habitual thieves. But the means that have been adopted by Government with a view of putting a stop to their evil practices have proved efficacious. So far as we know, the *Vedias* now earn their livelihood by honest labour. So Sir Phillip Hutchins' Bill is not for these people. But be the object of the Bill what it may, it is sure to interfere with the freedom of the people. The people of this country have little faith in the police, and just at the time when they have been hoping to see the unsympathetic police reformed, they are surprised with a proposal to arm it with dangerous powers. If the Bill is passed, the police will do in this country what the Russian police is now doing in Poland. The system of "domiciliary visits" is extremely bad. It means authority to enter into and search a man's house at any hour. Wherever this system prevails almost everybody suffers, and only real *budmashes* remain unchecked.

A rigorous police and jail administration is a necessity in a newly-conquered country. But as soon as peace and order is established in such a country, it becomes the duty of the Government to mitigate the rigour. There is peace just now all over India, and the Queen's authority is firmly established in every part of the country. There is no fear of rebellion or revolution, and the only external foe that need be feared is Russia. But Russian troops are still far off, and no Indian wishes to see Russia become mistress of India. The Indians, as Justice Pigot rightly said the other day in his Convocation speech, deem it an honour to be British citizens. We are surprised to see at a time of such profound universal peace a measure like the abolition of the jury system or a law so rigorous and illiberal in spirit as the Habitual Offenders Bill. Do Lord Lansdowne's Ministers desire to make the whole population, not excepting even labourers and cultivators, uneasy? These Ministers always boast that every class of people in India is happy and contented under the rule of Her Imperial Majesty, Queen Victoria. But there are, in this country, repeated famines; a new land-settlement with increased revenue outside of Bengal, forest laws which prevent people from grazing cattle and gathering fuel, fruits, and wild honey; and a salt tax which prevent people from consuming sufficient salt themselves and from giving it in sufficient quantities to their cattle. All these have rendered the lower classes of people in this country grieved and troubled at heart. Instead of advising the Viceroy, as they ought to, to remedy these evils, these Ministers are making constant attacks upon what little privilege and independence the country still enjoys. People ask in wonder "what does all this mean?" Is the present ruler of India displeased to see the real, no matter however small, effect that has been produced by English education in this country, and does he take the demand of the people for increased rights to mean danger? And is this why a retrograde move is being made in politics. Why is it that illiberal measures are being introduced one after another? The whole country is alarmed and astonished. Not even Lord Lytton went so far.

31. The *Bharat Mitra*, of the 2nd February, sees no necessity for the Habitual Offenders Bill, as habitual offenders like thugs and professional dacoits are no longer to be met with in the country. Most of the crimes which are now committed are owing to the growing poverty of the people, and so long as the people do not get food to eat, no law will keep them from crimes.

BAHHAT MITRA,
Feb. 2nd, 1893.

The Habitual Offenders Bill.

32. The *Sulabh Dainik*, of the 2nd February, writes as follows:—

It is not known why Government is so displeased with its poor, famished Indian subjects as to think of making its rule so rigorous. Does Government mean to make a display of its power by inaugurating an iron rule for a people

SULABH DAINIK,
Feb. 2nd, 1893.

who are on the point of starvation, but who, nevertheless, submit to every oppression without uttering one word of complaint or dissatisfaction?

The Bengali subjects of Government awoke from their sleep one morning and heard their Lieutenant-Governor thundering forth the jury order, without previous consultation with the public, or permitting any discussion of the measure. And now they find the Supreme Legislature about to make an amendment of the criminal law of the country for which the public sees no necessity whatever. Government probably thinks it unnecessary to consult its subjects, for they always silently acquiesce in everything that it does; but there can be no doubt whatever that, in thus adopting important measures without consulting its subjects, it fails in its duty as the sovereign of the country.

Section 2 of the Habitual Offenders Bill provides for police surveillance on all persons "judicially declared to be habitual offenders." There can be, of course, no objection to such a provision as this. But it is strange that Sir Charles Elliott is not satisfied with it, and has, therefore, proposed that "a register of unconvicted, suspected persons should be kept, and the police should have the power of paying domiciliary visits, searching their houses, and keeping information as to their movements." Did it become His Honour to make such a proposal as this, or does His Honour think that Bengal is not inhabited by human beings? Even the limited power of surveillance, which the existing law gives to the police, often leads to the most horrible oppressions, and the disaster that must befall the country if Sir Charles Elliott's proposal is adopted may be easily imagined. His Honour's frequent tours should have by this time enabled him to understand the real condition of the mufassal, with what terror the people regard the police, and how the latter take advantage of petty quarrels and jealousies among the people to oppress them in various ways. It is a matter of congratulation, however, that even Sir Philip Hutchins has found it necessary to object to the Lieutenant-Governor's proposal. Sir Philip will allow the police to keep secret registers of suspected persons and to watch their movements, but he will not give it any power, the exercise of which may be attended with oppression. Sir Philip's proposal is very reasonable, and if any oppression takes place in consequence of its adoption, the fault will be the fault of the police and not of the law.

The fourth section of the Bill is a most dangerous one, and should on no account be permitted to be passed into law. Indeed, the section would have found no place in the Bill, if there had been in the Viceroy's Council a single man thoroughly acquainted with the condition of the mufassal.

In conclusion, the writer must take exception to the very principle of the Bill. Is it proper to subject a person to lifelong police surveillance because he has been unfortunate enough to have been criminally convicted once or twice in his life?

HITAVADI,
Feb. 2nd, 1893.

The Habitual Offenders Bill.

33. The *Hitavadi*, of the 2nd February, has the following on the Habitual Offenders Bill.

The Bill has caused serious apprehension to the writer. He is at a loss to see why the authorities are going to increase the rigour of the administration in this way. As they love to see people punished, the criminal judiciary under them have had to become a convicting judiciary, in order that they may please the authorities, and by that means secure temporal advancement for themselves. Government apparently thinks that the police has sufficiently improved in character to be entrusted with larger powers. And this, coupled with the fact that Judges have now been empowered to try cases without the aid of jurors, is sufficiently disquieting. It is proposed to place at the mercy of the police all those who will once incur the name *habitual offenders*.

The Magistrates will call upon them to furnish sureties for good behaviour, and will be at liberty not to accept sureties where sureties may be offered, and to order police surveillance for three years. It is therefore clear that under the proposed law the Magistrates will be armed with inordinate powers. The question now is, how will a Magistrate adjudge people to be habitual offenders? Surely he will have to depend for this purpose on the secret information of the police—and woe unto him who will happen to incur the displeasure of the police! Considering the plenary powers with which the police is armed, and the generally unscrupulous character of the police officers, it will not be difficult for it to fabricate evidence against any person who may have given it offence. Formerly

village chaukidars used to respect the punchayats, but now they have been made independent of the latter, and they will not therefore feel the least hesitation in reporting to their superiors as *budmashes* those against whom they may bear a grudge. If the Bill becomes law, the powers of the police and the Magistracy will enormously increase. The writer is unable to see the necessity of a law of this kind in this time of profound peace, and when expressions of loyalty are being heard all over the country. The existing criminal law is sufficient for the purpose of dealing with habitual offenders. The *Pioneer's* statement that the Bill will not be passed until the next cold weather is somewhat reassuring.

34. The *Sanjivani*, of the 4th February, says that after the declaration made by the Viceroy at the last Convocation of the University representation in Calcutta University that, under the rules framed under the new India Councils Act, the Calcutta University will be able to send a member to the Bengal Legislative Council, Rai Raj Kumar Sarbadhikari Bahadur, Editor of the *Hindoo Patriot*, has begun canvassing for votes from the members of the Senate for the proposed membership of the Council. But it is sheer presumption on the Rai Bahadur's part, seeing that his University career was not after all very brilliant, to aspire to represent so learned a body as the University in the Bengal Council. Again, the Rai Bahadur is known to be such a favourite with the present Bengal Government that he cannot be expected to act with independence in the Bengal Council. In the paper he edits he has supported the action of Government in introducing the Municipal Bill, and expressed approval of even those sections of the Bill which have been most strongly objected to by the educated native community. And if he goes to the Bengal Council he will surely support the Bill. The University should be the last public body to nominate such a member. The Rai Bahadur has, on several occasions, betrayed his weakness, by bestowing unmerited praise on the Bengal Government and Sir Charles Elliott. The Calcutta University should on no account so far forget itself as to choose the Rai Bahadur as its representative. The Rai Bahadur should curb his ambition, and seek entrance into the Council not by public election, but through the favour of his patrons—the Lieutenant-Governor and Mr. Risley.

SANJIVANI
Feb. 4th, 1893.

Sir Charles Elliott and the
Habitual Offenders Bill.

35. The same paper has the following:—

SANJIVANI.

The Magistrate of Purulia was lately rebuked by the Lieutenant-Governor for making the police feel his displeasure in connection with a certain case. The Magistrate should have known that the police is the pet of Sir Charles Elliott, and that His Honour is an advocate of a blood-and-iron policy. His Honour, apparently, wants to put the whole country under a police system of Government. The Chaukidari Act was the first step taken in furtherance of this policy; and his proposal in connection with the Habitual Offenders Bill is intended to give perfect fulfilment to that policy. Even the *Pioneer*—that organ of the Government—has deprecated Sir Charles' proposal. The writer in that paper points out that in England only such persons as have been twice convicted are placed under police surveillance, and says that if larger powers of surveillance are given to the police here, those powers will surely be abused, and the people will be subjected to various sorts of oppression.

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

36. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 6th February, says that Captain Gordon and two police officers having been killed by some dacoits in Manhia, Kattiwar, the British Government is going to depose the ruler of the State for administrative incapacity. But if this is right action, why are not the Governors in British India deposed when such events as the recent killing of a police officer at Naihati take place?

DAINIK O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Feb. 5th, 1893.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

37. The *Bankura Darpan*, of the 1st February, says that the area of about 60 square miles in the Bankura district, which is bounded on the north by the Damodar river, on the

BANKURA DARPAN,
Feb. 1st, 1893.

south by the Sali river, on the east by Beletor as far as the Panagar road, and on the west by Hadal Narayanpur and other villages, is about to be visited by famine. It is said that, after inspecting the condition of the people, Mr. Barrow, the able District Magistrate, has held out to them hopes of takavi advances. But it has not yet been declared whether more than Rs. 12,000 will be sanctioned by the Divisional Commissioner for that purpose. Takavi advances to the extent of only Rs. 12,000 will do no appreciable good. Do not the authorities remember that in the distress of 1291 B.E. in the Sonamukhi thana alone takavi advances were made to the extent of one lakh of rupees, besides opening 12 *annachhatras* and relief work on four roads?

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

SAHACHAR,
Feb. 1st, 1893.

38. The *Sahachar*, of the 1st February, does not wish Sir Charles Elliott to resign the Lieutenant-Governorship of Bengal.

Sir Charles Elliott.

The country does not yet distrust him. He is certainly an honest man, but he is unfortunately possessed by the idea that Bengal should be terrorised. In the present circumstances of the country no sensible man hopes to see a representative system of Government like that of England established here. The despotic system is still needed in this country. But the Government should consult the people's wishes, and explain to them the object of its measures. If Sir Charles Elliott can govern in such a spirit, he will leave a name behind him, and the people will not wish to part with him.

SULABH DAINIK,
Dec. 3rd, 1892.

The Lieutenant-Governor at Chittagong.

39. The *Sulabh Dainik*, of the 3rd February, has the following:—

In replying to the address presented to him by the Municipal Commissioners of Chittagong, Sir Charles Elliott said that he was extremely gratified by their address, which gave clear proofs of loyalty, and that it was the friendly and respectful reception accorded by them to him on the occasion of his first visit to Chittagong, as well as a desire to see the progress they might have made since that time, that had brought him back to that place. But was the Lieutenant-Governor, we ask, quite sincere in his praise of native loyalty, or was that praise only a politic declaration? If the Lieutenant-Governor has really faith in native loyalty, why is he so much against us? It was only the other day that he abolished jury trial, and he is now injuring high education and the Self-Government system. Why, again, has such a distrust of the people been shown in the Habitual Offenders Bill? We have always been loyal, and we have never shown a rebellious spirit. Why is the Lieutenant-Governor, then, unwilling to enrol us as volunteers? Why, again, is he so much irritated by writings in the newspapers? That we do not fear Government is because we feel real respect for it. Fear is incompatible with real respect. As we have real respect for Government, we do not fear to freely speak out our minds. The Lieutenant-Governor has, therefore, no reason to be displeased with our outspokenness.

SANJIVANI,
Feb. 4th, 1893.

A cooly story.

40. The *Sanjivani*, of the 4th February, contains the following story:—

One Kartik Dom, of village Shapur, within the jurisdiction of the Binpur thana, in the Midnapore district, had a daughter named Rajani, aged some 12 or 13 years. She was married to one Narayan Dom, of Purunagarh-Raipur, in the Manbhum district, on the 20th January 1892, at the persistent request of Jivan Dom, the elder brother of Narayan, and some months after the marriage the girl was taken to her husband's house. After this the parents of the girl did not see, or hear of or from her for a long time. They grew anxious, and repeatedly wrote to the brothers Jivan and Narayan for information regarding their daughter. And not hearing from Raipur for about a year, they started for the place in order to see their daughter. But what was their agony when, on arriving at Raipur, they did not meet their daughter, but learnt from Narayan's neighbours that Narayan had a wife living when he married Rajani, and that Rajani had been sent by Narayan to a tea garden in Assam as a cooly. With a broken heart the parents returned home, and some time later they received a letter from their daughter, who was employed as a cooly in the Kumbha tea garden, on the Tikal hill in Assam, informing them that she had been sold as a cooly for Rs. 40, and that she had no means of returning home unless they came over to Assam to take her away.

ASSAM PAPERS.

41. The *Paridarshak*, of the 1st February, requests the Chief Commissioner of Assam to introduce competitive examinations for appointments to the clerical and police services, as has been done in Bengal.

PARIDARSHAK,
Feb. 1st, 1893.

42. The same paper says that Mr. Godfrey having called upon Babu Ramlal Acharyya, daroga of the Sylhet Jail, to explain why paddy was not purchased for jail consumption in the month of Aghran 1297 B. S., but was purchased later at an increased price, Babu Ramlal failed to give any satisfactory answer. Thereupon Mr. Driberg called for an explanation from the Jail Superintendent, Dr. Macnamara, who ascribed the late purchase to the jail daroga, who did not remind him of the matter in due time.

PARIDARSHAK.

Babu Ramlal should, on no account, be allowed to continue in charge of the Sylhet Jail, as he has been charged with neglect of duty, and with borrowing money without interest from the jail contractors and the relatives of the prisoners. The fact of these money transactions was admitted by Ramlal Babu in court in the case of Govind Babu. After the disclosures in that case, it was also expected that Brajanath Das would no longer be allowed to remain jail contractor in Sylhet.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 11th February 1893.

